

# Toys for Christmas

Santa Claus has selected this as headquarters this season, and we have the stock of toys for him to select from. The last three steamers brought us quantities of the most beautiful and useful pleasure providers we have ever offered. The assortment comprises ornaments for the tree, dolls of various quality, from the ordinary make to the finer grade with kid body and bisque heads; those opening and closing the eyes have long hair, some of them blonde and some brunette.

## SANTA STOPS HERE



The list includes many articles of an educational value, and boys may derive much practical information from their possession. Your inspection of the articles at this early season will result in your getting the best we have to offer. Particular attention is called to the stock of books for children and older folk. The Christmas gift books are specimens of the work of the best binders in America, and the letter press is from the best shops.

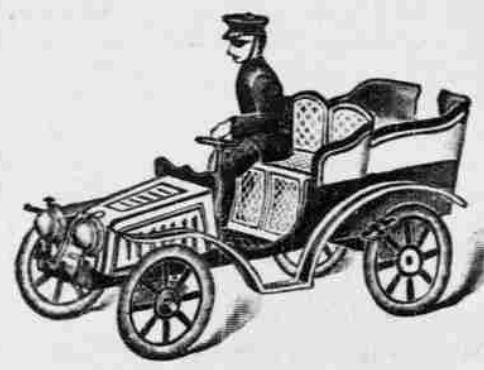
## LOOK AT THIS PARTIAL LIST



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## Queer Water Supplies

Methods of procuring water are not confined to digging wells or storing up the rainfall in reservoirs.

David Lindsay, who explored the great Australian desert, says that the whole of that almost waterless country is inhabited by natives who get their water supply by draining the roots of the mallee tree, which yield quantities of pure water. This tree, absorbing moisture from the air, retains it in considerable quantities in its roots, and thus makes it possible to live in an arid region which would otherwise be uninhabitable.

There are people in other parts of the world who get their supply of water in a peculiar way. The explorer Condreau, for instance, found, while wandering in the western part of Guiana, that it was not necessary for his men to descend to a creek when they wanted a drink of water. A vine known as the water vine is found all through that region. It yields an abundant supply of excellent drinking fluid whenever it is called upon.

This vine grows to a length of 60 to 90 feet. It is usually about as thick as the upper part of the human arm. It winds itself loosely around trees, clammers up to their summits, and then falls down perpendicularly to the ground, where it takes root again.

The natives cut this vine off at the ground, and then, at a height of six or seven feet, they cut it again, which leaves in their hands a very stout piece of wood a little longer than themselves. In order to obtain its sap, they raise the lower end of the vine upon some support and apply the upper end to their mouths.

The section of the vine, while showing a smooth, apparently compact surface is pierced with many little veins, through which the sap flows freely. Six feet of the vine gives a pint of water, which is slightly sweet to the taste. Condreau says that it quenches thirst as effectively as water from the most refreshing brook.

The bushmen in the Kalahari desert in South Africa often live scores of miles from places where water comes to the surface. During a certain part of the year rains fill for a few short days the water courses. Later the bushmen know how to find water in the bottom of the dried up river beds. They dig a hole three or four feet deep and then tie a sponge to the end of a hollow reed. The sponge absorbs the moisture at the bottom of the hole, and the natives draw it into their mouths through the reed, and then empty it into calabashes for future use.

The animals that inhabit such wastes as the Kalahari are, of course, accustomed to living upon very small and infrequent supplies of water. The Bechuanas do not lead their cattle to the drinking places oftener than once in two or three days.

It is said that the goats in the Kalahari frequently pass months without water, and, according to Mr. Mackenzie, there are certain antelopes which are never seen to visit the drinking places.

In the Gobi desert, north of China, showers sometimes fall during the summer, and fill the dried-up water courses through which water seldom runs. It is in these channels that the Mongols dig their wells.—St. Louis Globe Democrat.

### THE FAIR SCANDINAVIANS.

It is hard to agree with Major Woodruff as to the influence of fogs upon blonde types, in considering Norway and Sweden, the home of the blondes. The vikings of the prehistoric times have come down to us as flaxen-haired. The dominant type of Scandinavia today is the blonde. In the mountains of Sweden there are a few dark-haired inhabitants, but they are known as descendants of immigrants from the south of Europe. Everywhere the blonde is supreme, from the Skager Rack and the Cattegat to the Arctic ocean, but the climate in which this light skinned type persists is not one of fogs, but of clearness and brightness, the music of the folklore, the literature, the mythology of Scandinavia are all associated with the clearness of the sky, the brightness of the stars and the brilliancy of the air. Much of Scandinavia is in the domain of the midnight sun. In summer one can pick up a pin at midnight in Sweden by means of natural light.—Army and Navy Journal.

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